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7 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Article From Birmingham News, 4 June 1961

1. The following is an excerpt from a speech made by Major General Walter J. Hanna to a DAV convention banquet on 3 June 1961.

2. "Speaking briefly on the subject of Fidel Castro's 'Tractors for Prisoners' proposal, Hanna said the United States is in part responsible for the 1200 prisoners being in the Cuban dictators' hands.

"If there is any courage and honor among the meatheads, boneheads and sadsacks in high places, a force would be sent to rescue these people," Hanna declared.

"The only American citizens killed in that hyperbolical, despicable, stupid fiasco were four men from the Birmingham area.

"I am going to ask this body — this the Disabled American Veterans of Alabama — to do a job.

"I respectfully request that you contact the Alabama Senate and congressional delegation in Washington and demand the true story of just how those four Birmingham men lost their lives.

"It will make you lay down and cry.

"Also demand that those four men be accorded the same recognition as any brave American who lost his life in defense of this country."

SIGNED

Assistant Cover Officer
DPD

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cc: 1 - OGC
1 - BSD/OP

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